Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 01779 210739Z

15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ERDA-05 FEA-01 ACDA-05 IO-10 EB-07 NRC-05

OES-03 /103 W

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R 210701Z MAR 75 FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5330 INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS AMCONSUL SYDNEY AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: AS, FR
SUBJ: VISIT TO AUSTRALIA BY FRENCH SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR OVERSEAS DEPARTMENTS TIRN

- 1. FRENCH SECRETARY OF STATE FOR OVERSEAS DEPARTMENTS AND TERRITORIES, OLIVIER STIRN, VISITED AUSTRALIA MARCH 16-18. HE WAS FIRST FRENCH MINISTER TO VISIT AUSTRALIA SINCE PIERRE MESMER, AS MINISTER OF OVERSEAS DEPARTMENTS, VISITED SYDNEY IN 1971. FAIRLY SHARP FRANCO-AUSTRALIAN DIFFERENCES OVER FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTING IN SOUTH PACIFIC INHIBITED FURTHER VISITS IN MORE RECENT YEARS. STIRN STOPPED OFF IN AUSTRALIA ON WAY TO FRENCH POLYNESIA.
- 2. AT PRESS CONFERENCE INCANBERRA MARCH 18, STIRN COMMENTED THAT WHAT HE CALLED QTE MISUNDERSTANDINGS END QTE ABOUT FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTS IN THE PACIFIC WERE NOW PROBLEMS OF PAST. HE NOTED THAT FRANCE HAD FORMALLY DECLARED IT WOULD NOT CONDUCT ATMOSPHERIC TESTS IN 1975, THOUGH HE RECALLED THAT EXTRAORDINARY PRECAUTIONS HAD BEEN TAKEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DURING THE 1974 FRENCH TESTS, AND EVIDENCE SINCE THEN

SHOWED HOW INNOCUOUS THEY HAD BEEN. STIRN SAID FRANCE WAS SEEKING TOLIBERALISE RELATIONS BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND FRENCH TERRITORIES IN THE PACIFIC AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT AUSTRALIA AND FRANCE WOULD SIGN A CULTURAL AGREEMENT. HE SAID FRANCE WISHED TO PARTICIPATE IN AUSTRALIA'S PLANS TO ACQUIRE URANIUM ENRICHMENT TECHNOLOGY FROM ABROAD.

3. FRENCH EMBASSY IN CANBERRA EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH VISIT AND EVIDENCE IT PROVIDED THAT, INDEED, THE PAGE HAD BEEN TURNED ON PROBLEMS OF FRANCO-AUSTRALIAN RELATIONS OCCASIONED BY NUCLEAR TESTING. HARROP

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Message Attributes

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To: STATE

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